

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1. ✓
2. An expression cassette comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 operably linked to a nucleotide sequence of interest.
3. A vector comprising the expression cassette of claim 2.
4. A host cell stably transformed with the expression cassette of claim 2.
5. The host cell of claim 4, wherein said host cell is an animal cell.
6. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is capable of initiating cardiac-preferred transcription.
7. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein said cardiac-preferred transcription is ventricle-preferred.
8. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein said cardiac-preferred transcription is inducible.
9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is capable of initiating transcription in cardiac tissue.
10. An expression cassette comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 9 operably linked to a nucleotide sequence of interest.
11. A vector comprising the expression cassette of claim 10.

12. A host cell stably transformed with the expression cassette of claim 10.
13. The host cell of claim 12, wherein said host cell is an animal cell.
14. An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, wherein said transcription is ventricle preferred.
15. An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, wherein said transcription is inducible.
16. A transgenic animal comprising in its genome at least one stably incorporated expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence of interest operably linked to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is capable of initiating transcription in cardiac tissue.
17. The animal of claim 16, wherein said transcription is ventricle-preferred.
18. The animal of claim 16, wherein said transcription is inducible.
19. The animal of claim 16, wherein said transgenic animal exhibits altered expression of the nucleotide sequence of interest.
20. The animal of claim 16, wherein said animal is selected from the group consisting of mouse, rabbit, dog, pig, goat, monkey, chimpanzee, and cow.

21. The animal of claim 16, wherein said nucleotide sequence of interest encodes a myocardial component.

22. A transgenic mouse comprising in its genome at least one stably incorporated expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence of interest operably linked to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: ✓

(a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and
(b) a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is capable of initiating transcription in cardiac tissue.

23. The mouse of claim 22, wherein said transcription is ventricle preferred.

24. The mouse of claim 22, wherein said transcription is inducible.

25. The mouse of claim 22, wherein said mouse exhibits altered expression of the nucleotide sequence of interest.

26. The mouse of claim 22, wherein said nucleotide sequence of interest encodes a myocardial component.

27. The mouse of claim 22, wherein said nucleotide sequence of interest comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a.) a nucleotide sequence having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5;
and
b.) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

28. The mouse of claim 22, wherein said nucleotide sequence of interest comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5, wherein said sequence encodes a polypeptide capable of associating with cardiac myosin heavy chain; and
- b.) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6, wherein said polypeptide is capable of associating with cardiac myosin heavy chain.

29. The mouse of claim 22, wherein said nucleotide sequence of interest comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a.) a nucleotide sequence having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7;
- and
- b.) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

30. The mouse of claim 22, wherein said nucleotide sequence of interest comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a.) a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7, wherein said sequence encodes a polypeptide that retains kinase activity; and
- b.) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8, wherein said polypeptide retains kinase activity.

31. A method of altering expression of a nucleotide sequence of interest in a mouse, said method comprising providing a transgenic mouse comprising in its genome at least one stably incorporated expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence of interest operably linked to an isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and
(b) a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is capable of initiating transcription in cardiac tissue.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said expression is inducible.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein said expression is ventricle-preferred.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein said expression alters the mouse's susceptibility to cardiopathy.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein said cardiopathy is a cardiomyopathy.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said cardiomyopathy is selected from the group consisting of: familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathies, dilated cardiomyopathies, peripartum cardiomyopathy, and restrictive cardiomyopathies.

37. A method of identifying anti-cardiopathic compounds, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first and second transgenic mouse whose genomes comprise at least one stably incorporated expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence of interest operably linked to an isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and

(ii) a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is capable of initiating transcription in cardiac tissue;

(b) administering a compound to said first mouse;

- (c) incubating both the first and second mice for a period of time; and
- (d) monitoring said first mouse for a modulation of a cardiopathic phenotype in said first mouse compared to said second mouse.